

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. R5-2009-XXXX

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER NO. R5-2004-0045  
AND RESCINDING CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R5-2004-0046

FOR

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BEALE AIR FORCE BASE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
YUBA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Central Valley Water Board), finds that:

The United States Air Force (hereafter Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides sewerage service to domestic and industrial users at the Beale Air Force Base. On 27 April 2001, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. 5-01-087, which regulates the discharge of treated wastewater from the Beale Air Force Base Wastewater Treatment Plant (hereafter Facility) to an evaporation/percolation pond and a 40-acre irrigation field.

On 23 April 2004, the Central Valley Water Board adopted WDR Order No. R5-2004-0045 and Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2004-0046, authorizing the discharge of treated wastewater from the Facility to Hutchinson Creek, a water of the United States, which is tributary to the Bear River via the Western Pacific Interceptor Drainage Canal. WDR Order No. R5-2004-0045 additionally authorizes the reclamation of treated wastewater to irrigate the Base Golf Course.

CDO No. R5-2004-0046 provided a compliance date of 1 April 2009 for the Discharger to comply with final effluent limitations for methylene blue active substances (MBAS), iron, oil and grease, total petroleum hydrocarbons, aluminum, and nitrate and nitrite, contained in WDR Order No. R5-2004-0045.

The Discharger's primary method of disposal is to land under Order No. 5-01-087 and through reclamation on the Base Golf Course, as authorized by Order No. R5-2004-0045. A NDPES permit for a surface water discharge to Hutchinson Creek was needed due to the possibility of a discharge during wet winters due to a lack of storage capacity. Since adoption of Order No. R5-2004-0045, however, there has only been one event in April 2006 when a surface water discharge to Hutchinson Creek occurred.

A significant source of influent flow to the Facility is treated groundwater from the Discharger's groundwater treatment plant that treats groundwater at Site 13, also known as Landfill #1. Contaminated groundwater from Site 13 is treated by an air stripping process to remove trichloroethane (TCE) and other chlorinated hydrocarbons.

The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD), dated March 2009, to update its waste discharge requirements. In the RWD, the Discharger has proposed storage and disposal projects that will allow containment of all wastewater on land for the 100-yr return period total annual precipitation. Therefore, the Discharger requested the rescission of its NPDES permit requirements. The Discharger intends to continue reclamation of treated wastewater to irrigate the Base Golf Course as authorized in Order No. R5-2004-0045, therefore, the RWD requested the updated waste discharge requirements allow this reclamation use.

Until completion of the storage and disposal projects, the Discharger proposes to reduce groundwater pumping at Site 13 to the minimum pumping rate from November through March, thus reducing influent flows to the Facility. In the RWD, the Discharger submitted a water balance demonstrating the hydraulic capacity of the Facility to store and dispose treated effluent from the wastewater and groundwater treatment plants with the reduced winter pumping is sufficient to provide containment on land for the 100-yr return period total annual precipitation.

This Order amends Order No. R5-2004-0045 to rescind authorization for a surface water discharge under the NPDES Program and rescinds CDO No. R5-2004-0046.

Adoption of this Order is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulation, Section 13389.

On XX June 2009, after due notice to the Discharger and all other affected persons, a Public Hearing was held and all evidence received concerning amendment of Order No. R5-2004-0045 and rescission of CDO No. R5-2004-0046 was considered.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Cease and Desist Order (CDO) No. R5-2004-0046 is rescinded.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13263 and 13377, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R5-2004-0045 is amended solely to rescind National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0110299 and prohibit surface-water discharges by making the following modifications to the Order:

The title of WDR No. R5-2004-0045 is amended to delete the reference to NPDES No. CA0110299.

Finding No. 3 is modified as follows:

*The Discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides sewerage service to domestic and industrial users. The municipal wastewater treatment plant is in Section 4, T14N, R5E, MDB&M, as shown on*

*Attachment A, a part of this Order. The effluent waste stream from the treatment plant is discharged to an evaporation/percolation pond (Pond No. 4) and an adjacent irrigation field, located in Section 9, 14N, R5E, MDB&M and the Base golf course. ~~The effluent waste stream from the treatment plant is discharged to Hutchinson Creek (Outfall No. 001) at the point latitude 39° 5' 16" (degrees, minutes, seconds) and longitude 121° 25' 30". Hutchinson Creek enters the Western Pacific Interceptor Drainage Canal, which is tributary to the Bear River and the Feather River, waters of the United States. As an alternative to a surface water discharge, treated wastewater is also discharged to irrigate the Base golf course (Outfall No. 002), which is located in Section 35, T15N, R5E, MDB&M, as shown on Attachment A, a part of this Order.~~*

Finding No. 5 is modified as follows:

*"According to the Discharger, golf course irrigation is the highest priority use of the treated effluent, followed by the discharge to Pond #4, which has a capacity of 100 million gallons, and irrigation, ~~with surface water disposal to Hutchinson Creek being the lowest priority. Since 21 February 2002, all wastewater has been routed to the Golf Course Pond or Pond #4 and there has been no discharge to Hutchinson Creek.~~*

*Irrigation of the 120-acre golf course occurs while golfers are not on the course. The Golf Course Pond is located northeast of the wastewater treatment plant and to the west of the Golf Course. Golf Course irrigation tends to occur during the summer months. ~~Discharge to Hutchinson Creek occurs primarily during the winter months. The reclamation discharge to irrigate the golf course is covered under this Order.~~*

Finding No. 6 is modified as follows:

*A significant source of influent flow to the wastewater treatment plant is from a treatment plant to remediate groundwater at Site 13, also known as Landfill #1. Contaminated groundwater, from Site 13, is treated by an air stripping process to remove trichloroethane (TCE) and other chlorinated hydrocarbons. The effluent waste stream from the wastewater and the groundwater treatment plants are commingled in an aeration pond prior to discharge. ~~to Hutchinson Creek. The Discharger has proposed removing the treated groundwater from the domestic wastewater system, which would necessitate separate Waste Discharge Requirements. This would facilitate additional capacity for land disposal of the domestic wastewater.~~*

Finding Nos. 9, 12 through 20, 28, 29, 30, 43, and 47 are deleted.

The last paragraph of Finding No. 11 is deleted.

Finding No. 42 is amended to change the reference from "Attachments A, B, C, D, and E" to "Attachment A".

Discharge Prohibition A.1 is superseded with the following:

*Discharge of wastewater to land at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Findings in this Order is prohibited. Discharge to surface water, including Hutchinson Creek, is prohibited.*

Discharge Prohibition A.2 is superseded with the following:

*The discharge of wastes is prohibited except as allowed by this Order and Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements, dated 1 March 1991.*

Section C. Effluent Limitations – Discharge to Hutchinson Creek from the Disposal Pond (Outfall No. 001) is deleted in its entirety.

Section H. Receiving Water Limitations is deleted in its entirety.

The provisions contained at sections J.3, J.4, J.5, J.6, J.7, J.13, and J.14 are deleted.

The provision contained at section J.10 is amended to replace reference to “*Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES), dated 1 March 1991*” with “*Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements, 1 March 1991*”.

Accordingly, WDR Order No. R5-2004-0045 is amended to replace all reference to “*Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements (NPDES), dated 1 March 1991*” with “*Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements, 1 March 1991*”, (hereafter referred to as Standard Provisions).

The second paragraph of the provision contained at section J.11 is deleted.  
Provision J.21, second paragraph, is amended to replace reference to “*The statement shall comply with the signatory paragraph of Standard Provision D.6...*” with “*The statement shall comply with the signatory paragraph of Standard Provision B.3...*”.

Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R5-2004-0045, Sections titled INFLUENT MONITORING, EFFLUENT MONITORING, RECEIVING WATER MONITORING, and THREE SPECIES CHRONIC TOXICITY MONITORING are deleted in their entirety.

Order No. R5-2004-0045 is amended to eliminate Attachments B, C, D, and E in their entirety.

I, Pamela C. Creedon, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 12 June 2009.

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PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer